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TAGS: [ELAB](#) [KTIP](#) [KMAC](#) [KCRM](#) [KFRD](#) [KWMN](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [SMIG](#) [TD](#)
SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REF: STATE 002094

¶1. (SBU) In response to reftel, post submits the following information regarding trafficking in persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

¶2. (SBU) Point of Contact: Ebony Custis; (868) 822-5922 v; (868) 822-5984 f. Thirty seven hours of work total by POLoff and POL Assistant.

¶3. (SBU) THE COUNTRY'S TIP SITUATION

-- A. What is (are) the source(s) of available information on human trafficking? What plans are in place (if any) to undertake further documentation of human trafficking? How reliable are these sources?

Post's sources of information are generally reliable and include officials from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS); the Ministry of Labor and Small and Micro-Enterprise Development; the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs; the Ministry of Social Development; the Attorney General's Human Rights Unit; the Immigration Division of the Ministry of National Security; the Director of Public Prosecutions; the Tobago Secretaries of Tourism, Labor, and Community Development; the International Labor Organization (ILO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Amnesty International, The Living Waters Community, and Families in Action. The local press also occasionally reports on issues involving human trafficking, but these stories are often inaccurate, sensationalistic, misleading, confuse trafficking and economic migrants, and generally lack sufficient specificity and sourcing to judge their accuracy.

-- B. Is the country a country of origin, transit, and/or destination for men, women, or children subjected to conditions of commercial sexual exploitation, forced or bonded labor, or other slave-like conditions? Are citizens or residents of the country subjected to such trafficking conditions within the country? If so, does this internal trafficking occur in territory outside of the government's control (e.g. in a civil war situation)? From where are people recruited or from where do they migrate prior to being subjected to these exploitative conditions? To what other countries are people trafficked and for what purposes? Provide, where possible, numbers or estimates for each group of trafficking victims. Have there been any changes in the TIP situation since the last TIP Report (e.g. changes in destinations)?

Trinidad and Tobago (TT) generally is not a country of origin, transit, or destination for severe cases of internationally trafficked persons, and its citizens and residents likewise generally do not fall victim to trafficking conditions within the country.

There are reports of women entering Trinidad, primarily from South America, both legally at ports of entry and clandestinely by boat for the purpose of working as prostitutes or as domestic servants without legal authorization, but there have been no cases built proving that such women were brought to the country involuntarily or served involuntarily while in the country. A number of these women, after having been arrested and deported, reportedly return to Trinidad again due to economic motives.

There have been no changes over the last year regarding the overall TIP situation in Trinidad and Tobago from the perspective of possible victims, but the government (GOTT) has taken specific steps to enhance its capacity to detect potential trafficking, prosecute any traffickers that would be identified, and protect possible victims. These efforts are detailed elsewhere in this response.

-- C. To what kind of conditions are the trafficking victims subjected?

Because there is little evidence of trafficking, the conditions of potential victims are difficult to ascertain. Immigration officials report that some third-country national women believed to be engaged in prostitution are seen moving freely about the islands and frequently wire money to their homelands. When arrested, these women usually request immediate deportation and often are able to post bail in cash or via wire transfers. As noted above, officials reported that they are aware of several women from South American countries who have passed through ports of entry legally multiple times after having been arrested and deported for prostitution on various occasions.

-- D. Vulnerability to TIP: Are certain groups of persons more at risk of human trafficking (e.g. women and children, boys versus girls, certain ethnic groups, refugees, IDPs, etc.)? If so, please specify the type of exploitation for which these groups are most at risk (e.g., girls are more at risk of domestic servitude than boys).

Speculatively speaking, women may be most likely to be at risk of human trafficking by being lured to work as prostitutes or to work in the tourism industry and then convinced to work as prostitutes. However, government officials report that they have found no cases where travel or identification documents are held by third persons.

Within the country, though not TIP-related, some minors engage in sexual activity with men in exchange for money, and there have been reports of mothers living on the margins of society who have sent their daughters out to prostitute themselves in order to augment household income, or who have sold their children for financial gain or to support drug habits.

-- E. Traffickers and Their Methods: Who are the traffickers/exploiters? Are they independent business people? Small or family-based crime groups? Large international organized crime syndicates? What methods are used to gain direct access to

victims? For example, are the traffickers recruiting victims through lucrative job offers? Are victims sold by their families, or approached by friends of friends? Are victims "self-presenting" (approaching the exploiter without the involvement of a recruiter or transporter)? If recruitment or transportation is involved, what methods are used to recruit or transport victims (e.g., are false documents being used)? Are employment, travel, and tourism agencies or marriage brokers involved with or fronting for traffickers or crime groups to traffic individuals?

Accurate assessment of trafficking methods is difficult because of the paucity of trafficking activity here. Third-country nationals who engage in prostitution largely appear to be "self presenting" at ports of entry or to boat drivers along the South American coastline who, from some points, can reach southeastern Trinidad in 30 minutes. One local newspaper story in 2009 reported that Trinidadians, some who live in villages along the southwestern coast, offer transportation inland to those arriving clandestinely. There is also legal vessel traffic between southern Trinidad and Venezuela, including the movement of people between villages for short, legal visits, making it that much harder for authorities to find both illegal immigrants and trafficked persons.

14. (SBU) SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TIP EFFORTS

-- A. Does the government acknowledge that human trafficking is a problem in the country? If not, why not?

Government officials assert that human trafficking in and through Trinidad and Tobago may exist in some form, perhaps centered in the

illegal sex trade, but if it does, it is extremely rare and in an "embryonic state." Their actions are directed at assuring that trafficking does not become a problem. Mindful that there is no law on the books directly criminalizing human trafficking, the government formed a working group in 2009 charged with developing a legal framework consistent with TVPA minimum standards, and has conducted training among multiple government agencies and nongovernmental stakeholders to identify possible trafficking victims and to provide them physical protection and social services.

-- B. Which government agencies are involved in efforts to combat sex and labor trafficking - including forced labor - and, which agency, if any, has the lead in these efforts?

The GOTT has taken an inter-ministerial approach to a redoubled effort to prevent human trafficking, with the Ministry of National Security taking lead since all national security, border control and law enforcement authorities are organized within the Ministry. Other ministries having a stake in anti-trafficking efforts, including preventing forced labor, include the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

-- C. What are the limitations on the government's ability to address these problems in practice? For example, is funding for police or other institutions inadequate? Is overall corruption a problem? Does the government lack the resources to aid victims?

The most significant limitation on the GOTT's ability to address trafficking issues is the lack of comprehensive legislation that would make human trafficking a crime and would ensure protection of trafficking victims. Under current legislation, prosecutors can

only charge alleged perpetrators of trafficking under other laws related to immigration violations and kidnapping. A working group was formed by the government in November 2009 to address legislation, investigative techniques, and protection of victims. The working group and its subcommittees has met regularly and formed a policy document to guide the legislative process toward enacting legislation consistent with TVPA standards.

-- D. To what extent does the government systematically monitor its anti-trafficking efforts (on all fronts --prosecution, victim protection, and prevention) and periodically make available, publicly or privately and directly or through regional/international organizations, its assessments of these anti-trafficking efforts?

GOTT has no system for monitoring its anti-trafficking efforts. In is anticipated that the Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA) of TTPS will have responsibility for data collection and analysis after comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation is enacted.

-- E. What measures has the government taken to establish the identity of local populations, including birth registration, citizenship, and nationality?

The domestic legislation of Trinidad and Tobago provides that every child must be registered immediately after birth.

-- F. To what extent is the government capable of gathering the data required for an in-depth assessment of law enforcement efforts? Where are the gaps? Are there any ways to work around these gaps?

CAPA collects and analyzes crime and investigation statistics, but shortfalls in human resources sometimes hamper the collection and analysis of timely and accurate information. The Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) and the Exit Control System (ECS) improve the government's capability of gathering data involving third-country nationals and the movement of citizens from the country, and the police maintain a relatively high rate of closing missing persons cases.

15. (SBU) INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS

-- A. Existing Laws against TIP: Does the country have a law or laws specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons -- both sexual exploitation and labor? If so, please specifically cite the name of the law(s) and its date of enactment and provide the exact language [actual copies preferable] of the TIP provisions. Please provide a full inventory of trafficking laws, including non-criminal statutes that allow for civil penalties against alleged trafficking crimes (e.g., civil forfeiture laws and laws against illegal debt). Does the law(s) cover both internal and transnational forms of trafficking? If not, under what other laws can traffickers be prosecuted? For example, are there laws against slavery or the exploitation of prostitution by means of force, fraud, or coercion? Are these other laws being used in trafficking cases?

There is no formal legislation specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons, but the GOTT established a working group in November 2009 to address trafficking issues that has drafted a policy

document to be used by the government in drafting legislation consistent with TVPA standards.

Activities involving alleged trafficking currently must be prosecuted as related offenses such as abduction, rape, unlawful detention, money laundering, kidnapping, illegal adoption, murder and corruption. Existing legislation that could be used to prosecute crimes associated with human trafficking are the Offences Against the Person Act 1925, the Children Act of 1925, the Children Amendment Act, the Summary Offences Act, the Sexual Offences Act and the Transnational Organized Crime Convention of 2007.

The law also mandates that teachers, parents and medical practitioners report to the police all sexual crimes against children if they reasonably believe that a sexual crime has been committed.

The International Child Abduction Act of 2008 established a Civil Child Abduction Authority that would protect children internationally from the harmful effects of their wrongful removal or retention and to establish procedures to ensure their prompt return to the State of their habitual residence, as well as to secure protection for rights of access. This is the required implementing legislation to give effect to the 1980 Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction.

-- B. Punishment of Sex Trafficking Offenses: What are the prescribed and imposed penalties for the trafficking of persons for commercial sexual exploitation, including for the forced prostitution of adults and the prostitution of children?

There is no law for trafficking of persons for commercial sexual exploitation. The offense of procuring a person for prostitution is prohibited under Section 17(B) of the Sexual offences Act, which carries a maximum prison term of fifteen years.

-- C. Punishment of Labor Trafficking Offenses: What are the prescribed and imposed penalties for labor trafficking offenses, including all forms of forced labor? If your country is a source country for labor migrants, do the government's laws provide for criminal punishment -- i.e. jail time -- for labor recruiters who engage in recruitment of workers using knowingly fraudulent or deceptive offers with the purpose of subjecting workers to compelled service in the destination country? If your country is a destination for labor migrants (legal/regular or illegal/irregular), are there laws punishing employers or labor agents who confiscate workers' passports or travel documents for the purpose of labor trafficking, switch contracts without the worker's consent as a means to keep the worker in a state of compelled service, or withhold payment of salaries as means of

keeping the worker in a state of compelled service?

There is no law against labor trafficking offenses, and forced labor is not considered to be practiced on any scale.

-- D. What are the prescribed penalties for rape or forcible sexual assault?

The penalty for rape or forcible sexual assault is up to life imprisonment depending on the nature of the offense.

-- E. Law Enforcement Statistics: Did the government take legal action against human trafficking offenders during the reporting period? If so, provide numbers of investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences imposed, including details on plea bargains and fines, if relevant and available. Please note the number of convicted trafficking offenders who received suspended sentences and the number who received only a fine as punishment. Please indicate which laws were used to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence traffickers. Also, if possible, please disaggregate numbers of cases by type of TIP (labor vs. commercial sexual exploitation) and victims (children under 18 years of age vs. adults). What were the actual punishments imposed on convicted trafficking offenders? Are they serving the time sentenced? If not, why not?

Police and Immigration authorities launched a joint investigation in late 2009 into human trafficking allegations made by an unidentified third-country national who has been taken into protective custody until he or she can be safely returned home. The government began extradition proceedings in February 2010 against an Iranian national wanted for human trafficking in the Netherlands.

-- F. Does the government provide any specialized training for law enforcement and immigration officials on identifying and treating victims of trafficking? Or training on investigating and prosecuting human trafficking crimes? Specify whether NGOs, international organizations, and/or the USG provide specialized training for host government officials.

Consistent with a recommendation made in the 2009 TIP report, the government has increased training for police, immigration officers, prison officials, Defense Force staff, and members of the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) conducted by the IOM. As part of their training, officers are sensitized to human trafficking and smuggling and are introduced to basic techniques of victim identification, investigative interviewing, profiling, imposter detection and fraudulent document identification.

Manuals prepared by the IOM and paid for by the Department of State outline procedures for combating trafficking and smuggling are utilized by both the immigration authorities and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

The government's working group on trafficking issues launched in November 2009 also made sensitization, training and public awareness a mandate of one of the group's subcommittees, which coordinated training in victim identification, interviewing and services to a range of government offices and nongovernmental stakeholders.

--G. Does the government cooperate with other governments in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases? If possible, provide the number of cooperative international investigations on trafficking during the reporting period.

From Jan 26-27 2009, under the auspices of the IOM, representatives of the government of Trinidad and Tobago met with representatives of the government of Colombia in Bogota to discuss the issue of human trafficking and economic/other migration. The session was

designed to facilitate dialogue and to strengthen coordination mechanisms between the countries. Officials from various agencies discussed human trafficking in the Caribbean within a Trinidad and Colombia context, including issues such as identifying and assisting victims of trafficking; methods to detect any trafficking networks that may develop between Colombia and Trinidad

and Tobago including traffickers' profiles and modus operandi as well as law enforcement responses, investigations and prosecutions through collaborative efforts; providing emergency shelter assistance to victims and allowing victims to return home voluntarily; and the return and reintegration process in Colombia.

-- H. Does the government extradite persons who are charged with trafficking in other countries? If so, please provide the number of traffickers extradited during the reporting period, and the number of trafficking extraditions pending. In particular, please report on any pending or concluded extraditions of trafficking offenders to the United States.

The Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act governs extradition between Trinidad and Tobago and declared Commonwealth and other foreign territories under the Act. No traffickers were extradited during the reporting period, but on February 10, 2010 an Iranian male was ordered to be extradited to the Netherlands where he is wanted for human trafficking.

-- I. Is there evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking, on a local or institutional level? If so, please explain in detail.

There is no evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking on a local or institutional level.

-- J. If government officials are involved in human trafficking, what steps has the government taken to end such complicity? Please indicate the number of government officials investigated and prosecuted for involvement in trafficking or trafficking-related criminal activities during the reporting period. Have any been convicted? What sentence(s) was imposed? Please specify if officials received suspended sentences, or were given a fine, fired, or reassigned to another position within the government as punishment. Please indicate the number of convicted officials that received suspended sentences or received only a fine as punishment.

N/A

-- K. For countries that contribute troops to international peacekeeping efforts, please indicate whether the government vigorously investigated, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced nationals of the country deployed abroad as part of a peacekeeping or other similar mission who engaged in or facilitated severe forms of trafficking or who exploited victims of such trafficking.

N/A

-- L. If the country has an identified problem of child sex tourists coming to the country, what are the countries of origin for sex tourists? How many foreign pedophiles did the government prosecute or deport/extradite to their country of origin? If your host country's nationals are perpetrators of child sex tourism, do the country's child sexual abuse laws have extraterritorial coverage (similar to the U.S. PROTECT Act) to allow the prosecution of suspected sex tourists for crimes committed abroad? If so, how many of the country's nationals were prosecuted and/or convicted during the reporting period under the extraterritorial provision(s) for traveling to other countries to engage in child sex tourism?

Child sex tourism is not considered a problem in Trinidad and Tobago and no prosecutions related to sex tourism were reported.

16. (SBU) PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

-- A. What kind of protection is the government able under existing law to provide for victims and witnesses? Does it provide these protections in practice?

Police and Immigration authorities worked jointly to investigate claims of trafficking made in late 2009 by a third-country national that was not currently residing legally in Trinidad and Tobago. Immigration officials placed the individual in protective custody while the investigation was pending. GOTT's TIP manual includes guidelines for the protection of TIP victims as well as victim assistance, and the newly formed working group on trafficking issues has a subcommittee dedicated to the development of new policies and procedures for victim protection and assistance.

-- B. Does the country have victim care facilities (shelters or drop-in centers) which are accessible to trafficking victims? Do foreign victims have the same access to care as domestic trafficking victims? Where are child victims placed (e.g., in shelters, foster care, or juvenile justice detention centers)? Does the country have specialized care for adults in addition to children? Does the country have specialized care for male victims as well as female? Does the country have specialized facilities dedicated to helping victims of trafficking? Are these facilities operated by the government or by NGOs? What is the funding source of these facilities? Please estimate the amount the government spent (in U.S. dollar equivalent) on these specialized facilities dedicated to helping trafficking victims during the reporting period.

Counseling and shelter services provided by NGOs and partially funded by the government should be equally available to trafficking victims as to other victims of violence or dangerous circumstances. The Immigration Detention Center was opened in November 2009 to house adult male immigrants pending removal proceedings, and anyone claiming to be the victim of trafficking would be placed in protective custody.

-- C. Does the government provide trafficking victims with access to legal, medical and psychological services? If so, please specify the kind of assistance provided. Does the government provide funding or other forms of support to foreign or domestic NGOs and/or international organizations for providing these services to trafficking victims? Please explain and provide any funding amounts in U.S. dollar equivalent. If assistance provided was in-kind, please specify exact assistance. Please specify if funding for assistance comes from a federal budget or from regional or local governments.

The government has not provided specific services to trafficking victims, largely because such victims have not been identified.

Consistent with a recommendation included in the 2009 TIP report, the government is developing policy guidelines to offer shelter, protection, repatriation, assistance in replacing travel documents, counseling and social services, medical services, and interpreter assistance to any trafficking victims that might be identified in the future.

The GOTT does not provide funding or other forms of support to foreign or domestic NGOs for services to TIP victims, though some NGOs may receive funding for related services. However, since trafficking activities could be charged under other, related criminal offenses, victims of certain crimes under the Sexual Offenses Act, for example, could receive benefits pursuant to the

Criminal Injuries Compensation Act No. 21 of 1999 that established a system of state assistance for crime victims.

-- D. Does the government assist foreign trafficking victims, for example, by providing temporary to permanent residency status, or other relief from deportation? If so, please explain.

Because most foreign nationals arrested for prostitution or immigration violations tend to seek expedited removal from the country and do not allege that they were trafficked, the government has not provided any particular relief from removal, but assistance is provided to obtain airline tickets and travel documents.

-- E. Does the government provide longer-term shelter or housing benefits to victims or other resources to aid the victims in rebuilding their lives?

The government currently does not provide longer-term shelter or housing benefits to victims nor do they provide other resources to aid the victims in rebuilding their lives. These services are offered by NGOs.

-- F. Does the government have a referral process to transfer victims detained, arrested or placed in protective custody by law enforcement authorities to institutions that provide short- or long-term care (either government or NGO-run)?

There is no specific referral process.

-- G. What is the total number of trafficking victims identified during the reporting period? (If available, please specify the type of exploitation of these victims - e.g. "The government identified X number of trafficking victims during the reporting period, Y of which were victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and Z of which were victims of nonconsensual labor exploitation.) Of these, how many victims were referred to care facilities for assistance by law enforcement authorities during the reporting period? By social services officials? What is the number of victims assisted by government-funded assistance programs and those not funded by the government during the reporting period?

One person was identified as a potential/potential trafficking victim during the reporting period. The type of exploitation is not known, neither is the person's home of origin, and the matter is under investigation by both the police and Immigration Service to see if this is really a trafficking case or some other type of matter.

-- H. Do the government's law enforcement, immigration, and social services personnel have a formal system of proactively identifying victims of trafficking among high-risk persons with whom they come in contact (e.g., foreign persons arrested for prostitution or immigration violations)? For countries with legalized prostitution, does the government have a mechanism for screening for trafficking victims among persons involved in the legal/regulated commercial sex trade?

GOTT's TIP investigation manual outlines best practices for victim profiling and identification.

Consistent with a recommendation in the 2009 TIP report, the government's trafficking working group has been working to

establish a formalized system to identify trafficking victims that would include stakeholders such as hotel managers and staff. Additionally, the government is in the process of establishing a hotline to further improve the identification process.

-- I. Are the rights of victims respected? Are trafficking victims detained or jailed? If so, for how long? Are victims fined? Are victims prosecuted for violations of other laws, such as those governing immigration or prostitution?

The rights of victims are generally respected, although the government reports that no one, either a citizen or a foreign national, charged with prostitution has ever alleged to have been trafficked in any form. Regardless, the GOTT generally provides a certified interpreter for questioning and those considered vulnerable to violence are held in safe houses and returned to their habitual residence as quickly as possible.

-- J. Does the government encourage victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking? How many victims assisted in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers during

the reporting period? May victims file civil suits or seek legal action against traffickers? Does anyone impede victim access to such legal redress? If a victim is a material witness in a court case against a former employer, is the victim permitted to obtain other employment or to leave the country pending trial proceedings? Are there means by which a victim may obtain restitution?

The GOTT encourages victims of all crimes to assist in any investigation and prosecution. Although there have been no TIP prosecutions, the GOTT has provided safety for detainees that have offered testimony for alleged violations of the sexual offenses act.

-- K. Does the government provide any specialized training for government officials in identifying trafficking victims and in the provision of assistance to trafficked victims, including the special needs of trafficked children? Does the government provide training on protections and assistance to its embassies and consulates in foreign countries that are destination or transit countries? What is the number of trafficking victims assisted by the host country's embassies or consulates abroad during the reporting period? Please explain the type of assistance provided (travel documents, referrals to assistance, payment for transportation home).

The GOTT through its partnership with the IOM has provided training seminars on trafficking in persons and has sent GOTT officials on training with the aim of enhancing the technical skills of service providers and law enforcement officers. 195 Immigration officers, 240 police officers and 84 other officers from the Ministry of National Security attended courses ranging from investigative interviewing and evidence gathering to Train the Trainer. The GOTT does not provide specific human trafficking assistance to its embassies or consulates abroad.

-- L. Does the government provide assistance, such as medical aid, shelter, or financial help, to its nationals who are repatriated as victims of trafficking?

The GOTT does not have an established system for providing shelters, services, or any other resource for trafficking victims. NGOs such as the Living Waters Community, which does receive some government funding for its overall work, would provide these services.

-- M. Which international organizations or NGOs, if any, work with trafficking victims? What type of services do they provide? What

sort of cooperation do they receive from local authorities?

The NGO Living Waters Community provides shelter, medical services, counseling, translation services to a wide range of mostly women and children in dangerous situations.

17. (SBU) PREVENTION

-- A. Did the government conduct anti-trafficking information or education campaigns during the reporting period? If so, briefly describe the campaign(s), including their objectives and effectiveness. Please provide the number of people reached by such awareness efforts, if available. Do these campaigns target potential trafficking victims and/or the demand for trafficking (e.g. "clients" of prostitutes or beneficiaries of forced labor)? (Note: This can be an especially noteworthy effort where prostitution is legal.)

The government did not conduct any anti-trafficking campaigns during the reporting period, but the Ministry of National Security funded the distribution of drug trafficking awareness posters that warned against the consequences of swallowing drugs for smuggling purposes. The government may use that model for future anti-human trafficking campaigns, and plans to implement a hotline.

-- B. Does the government monitor immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking?

The Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Act of 2008, allows the government to monitor immigration and emigration patterns for all passengers, but we are not aware that it has been used as a method to determine any human trafficking patterns.

-- C. Is there a mechanism for coordination and communication between various agencies, internal, international, and multilateral on trafficking-related matters, such as a multi-agency working group or a task force?

The government announced the formation of a task force in November that meets on a monthly basis to enact legislation and practices consistent with the 2009 TIP report, and a anti-trafficking "unit" is being designed, likely within the Ministry of National Security but with inter-ministerial collaboration.

-- D. Does the government have a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons? If the plan was developed during the reporting period, which agencies were involved in developing it? Were NGOs consulted in the process? What steps has the government taken to implement the action plan?

On September 30, 2009, the government announced the establishment of an inter-ministerial task force to oversee the implementation of a nine-month plan to prevent human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago. The task force is comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Health, Labor, Attorney General, Foreign Affairs, National Security (including Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Prison Service, Immigration Division, Special Anti-Crime Unit, and International Affairs Unit), the Tobago House of Assembly, local non-governmental, faith-based and community based organizations, and the IOM.

The task force organized three subcommittees - one to draft policy and legislation, one to develop protocols on information exchange

and victim assistance, and one to raise public awareness. Goals of the task force include the criminalization of trafficking in persons through prosecution and the prevention of the emergence of trafficking as a significant problem in Trinidad and Tobago. The task force is responsible for implementing and systematizing a referral process to identify and assist victims, establishing a hotline to field calls pertaining to human trafficking and conducting a nation-wide information campaign.

-- E: Required of all Posts: What measures has the government taken during the reporting period to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts? (please see ref B, para. 9(3) for examples)

Commercial sex acts are illegal in Trinidad and Tobago. Those involved in this crime are prosecuted under the Sexual Offenses Act.

-- F. Required of all Posts: What measures has the government taken during the reporting period to reduce the participation in international child sex tourism by nationals of the country?

None. Child sex tourism is not identified as a problem in Trinidad and Tobago or an offense committed by its citizens elsewhere.

18. (SBU) PARTNERSHIPS

Secretary Clinton has identified a fourth "P", Partnerships, recognizing that governments' partnerships with other government and elements of civil society are key to effective anti-TIP strategies. Although the 2010 Report will include references and/or descriptions of these partnerships, they will not be considered in the determining the tier rankings, except in cases where a partnership contributes to the government's efforts to

implement the TVPA's minimum standards.

-- A. Does the government engage with other governments, civil society, and/or multilateral organizations to focus attention and devote resources to addressing human trafficking? If so, please provide details.

From Jan 26-27 2009, under the auspices of the IOM, representatives of the government of Trinidad and Tobago met with representatives of the government of Colombia in Bogota to discuss the issue of human trafficking. The session was to facilitate dialogue and to strengthen coordination mechanisms between the countries regarding any incidents of human trafficking. The government also coordinated training of officials from a number of agencies through the IOM, and provides such training to nongovernmental stakeholder groups as it worked with them on new policy and procedural guidelines through the government's working group on trafficking.

-- B. What sort of international assistance does the government provide to other countries to address TIP?

N/A
Kusnitz